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Special Occasion food

China is always having special occasions, and just like in America, at special occasions, there’s always food to celebrate. In America, a common food people eat to celebrate their birthday is cake; whereas, they eat cake, but also noodles. The noodles are eaten before whomever birthday it maybe and the cake is eaten on the day of. The Noodles are especially encouraged to eat at a young age to represent a long, joyful life. Peaches, candles, and couplets are something that the Chinese often use to decorate the cake.

A wedding is a day that almost everyone looks forward to. At the reception or after party of the wedding dates, peanuts, longan and chestnuts are often served together. They are represented as a wish that the couple will soon have a child. Back in the Roman times the honeymoon cake would be broken in half over the brides head, and then the guest would eagerly eat the crumbs for good luck. In Medieval times, the bride and groom would kiss over a stack of numerous buns and/or cakes, and was considered a symbol of prosperity if able to do so. However, Chefs began to make amass amounts of cake and made it hard to do so. Since eight is considered a lucky number, it is common to serve eight courses.

Appetizers have dragon shaped plates, because In Chinese culture, the dragon and the phoenix symbolize the yin, which is the feminine side and the yang, which is the masculine side. Duck or geese is usually serve something like chicken, duck or geese. Peking Duck is a red dish, and red is said to be a symbol of good fortune. Red is commonly seen throughout the wedding. Sea cucumber is also something sometimes seen at weddings, for it symbolizes harmony and a lack of conflict between the newly married couple. Lastly, 7 UP (along with tea and alcohol) is a common wedding soft drink. Up sounds a lot like happiness in Chinese, so it is considered to be very lucky. If you ever go to a Chinese wedding or celebrate a Chinese Birthday look to see if you recognize any of the foods mentioned.

Cites used:

<http://chinesefood.about.com/library/weekly/aa060499.htm>

<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/cuisine.htm>